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State Dept. review completed

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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Polish Party Chief Surprisingly Candid with US Ambassador

Party first secretary Edward Gierek was quite candid and forthcoming during a conversation with US Ambassador Stoessel last Friday at the Polish National Day reception for the diplomatic corps. He claimed that in working to improve and modernize Poland, his first priority was to see that the people were well-fed. Once he has handled the problem of food shortages, however, he also hopes to raise general living standards. In Gierek's words, this was the only way in which "troubles" could be avoided and a truly stable Poland created. He complained that his job was very difficult and that "even some members of my own party do not understand what I am trying to do."

Ambassador Stoessel was pleased with the special attention he received both from Gierek and from Premier Jaroszewicz at the reception and was somewhat surprised at Gierek's frankness. Their conversation confirms other reports that the Gierek regime has met with considerable foot-dragging and apathy on the part of some party members.

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Mission Berlin Is "Optimistic" but Not Persuasive

Mission Berlin concurs with the American Embassy in Bonn's "optimistic" analysis [redacted] of the prospects for the conclusion of a GDR-FRG Basic Treaty before the upcoming FRG elections. Berlin bases its assessment on the belief "that the GDR probably considers the uncertain future of Brandt's government to be an advantage for its negotiating purposes." The Mission believes that Pankow may assume that the Brandt coalition would like to focus the election debate on foreign policy and, therefore, might be prepared to make the "maximum domestically tolerable concessions" to get a treaty.

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Berlin, nevertheless, appears to have reservations about the prospects for a GDR-FRG agreement in the immediate future. The Mission prefaces its conclusion by saying that the GDR has good reason to believe time is on its side and Pankow is in no mood to accommodate Bonn, especially on Brandt's thesis of the existence of two states in one German nation. Following this line of reasoning, however, an agreement would be possible only by an FRG cave-in -- which would not be "domestically tolerable" and would hurt Brandt's reelection chances.

The Mission in contrast to Bonn, does not mention the one factor working on behalf of the treaty which overrides other considerations -- the GDR is interested in moving quickly toward the conclusion of an agreement, because it would pave the way for further international recognition and UN membership.

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Drug Addiction Soars In Yugoslavia

The number of drug addicts in Belgrade has skyrocketed from an estimated 200 in 1970 to around 10,000 today, according to a Western news report from Belgrade. Yugoslav estimates have tended to place the number of addicts at somewhere around 2,000 -- still an alarmingly high figure.

Last month, a 21 year old girl died from an overdose of drugs, bringing the total known deaths from drug abuse this year to three. The girl reportedly belonged to a gang of addicts who specialized in breaking into pharmacies in search of narcotics to sustain their habits. (According to the story, these drugs sell for as much as \$6 an ampule on the black market, which is high by Yugoslav standards).

Yugoslavia is astride a major transit route for drugs being smuggled out of the Middle East to Western Europe. As authorities in the West have clamped down on drug abuse, the traffickers have sought new markets in other areas, in-

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cluding Yugoslavia. Yugoslav authorities have repeatedly expressed alarm over the increased use of drugs among their young people, and customs officials are tightening border controls to prevent illicit drugs from entering the country. These measures, however, have not been enough. In addition to Belgrade, reports indicate that Zagreb also has a serious drug problem.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
ONLY THE ANALYSIS OF THE EE BRANCH

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